

CLAIMS

5 1. A tire tread comprising at least a rubber composition, said composition comprising at least a diene elastomer, a reinforcing inorganic filler, a coupling agent and a plasticising agent, characterised in that the diene elastomer comprises more than 30 phr of butyl rubber and in that the plasticising agent comprises an unsaturated (C₁₂-C₂₂) fatty acid triester of glycerol.

10 2. A tread according to Claim 1, the amount of butyl rubber being at least 40 phr.

3. A tread according to Claim 2, the amount of butyl rubber being within a range from 40 to 80 phr.

15 4. A tread according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, the butyl rubber being a halogenated butyl rubber.

5. A tread according to Claim 4, the butyl rubber being a brominated butyl rubber.

20 6. A tread according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, the fatty acid of the glycerol triester being to more than 50% by weight selected from among the group consisting of oleic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid and mixtures of these acids.

25 7. A tread according to Claim 6, the fatty acid comprising more than 50% by weight of oleic acid.

8. A tread according to Claim 7, the fatty acid comprising more than 80% by weight of oleic acid.

30 9. A tread according to Claim 8, the glycerol fatty acid triester being glycerol trioleate.

10. A tread according to Claim 9, the glycerol trioleate being present in the form of sunflower oil.

35 11. A tread according to any one of Claims 1 to 10, the amount of glycerol triester being between 5 and 80 phr.

40 12. A tread according to Claim 11, the amount of glycerol triester being between 10 and 50 phr.

13. A tread according to Claim 12, the amount of glycerol triester being within a range from 15 to 30 phr.

5 14. A tread according to any one of Claims 1 to 13, the diene elastomer comprising, in addition to the butyl rubber, at least one elastomer selected from among the group consisting of polybutadienes, synthetic polyisoprenes, natural rubber, butadiene copolymers, isoprene copolymers and mixtures of these elastomers.

10 15. A process for preparing a tire tread having improved grip on wet roads, characterised in that it comprises the following steps:

- incorporating in a diene elastomer, in a mixer:
 - a reinforcing inorganic filler;
 - a coupling agent;
 - a plasticising agent,by thermomechanically kneading the entire mixture, in one or more stages, until a maximum temperature of between 130°C and 200°C is reached;
- cooling the entire mixture to a temperature of less than 100°C;
- then incorporating:
 - a cross-linking system;
- kneading the entire mixture until a maximum temperature of less than 120°C is reached;
- extruding or calendering the rubber composition thus obtained, in the form of a tire tread;

characterised in that the diene elastomer comprises more than 30 phr of butyl rubber and in that the plasticising agent comprises an unsaturated (C₁₂-C₂₂) fatty acid triester of glycerol.

30 16. The use of a tread according to any one of Claims 1 to 14, for the manufacture or retreading of tires.

17. A tire comprising a tread according to any one of Claims 1 to 14.